

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

Monday September 19th, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. MMMM Room
New York State Education Department
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, New York 12234

Members Present: Daniella Rutner, Chair, Alison Risko, Dana Salgado, Richard Soden, Jeffrey Calhoun & Obinna Akano

Extended Member: Frank Pirozzolo, Wayne Gabel

Members Absent: Michele Lagana

SED Staff: Dolores Cottrell, Michael Puspurs, Timothy Winner

SED Guests:

Welcome: Dr. Cottrell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Each member introduced themselves. Motion to open meeting (Calhoun/Soden).

Minutes: Minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting were approved as corrected (Salgado/soden).

Chairperson's Report

No report was given.

Executive Secretary's Report

Dr. Cottrell introduced new Board Office staff member Timothy Winner. Dr. Cottrell informed members that the Open Meetings Executive Order expired on September 12th, so the meetings have to be in person. Dr. Cottrell stated that under extenuating circumstances, we can have members go to the OPD sites. Dr. Cottrell reminded the Board to submit travel documents within 30 days.

Dr. Cottrell stated there is a VSP event in October, where students in Poughkeepsie will get eyeglasses. Dr. Cottrell stated that it is part of a yearly effort to provide vision care for those in need in a partnership between Optometry Board, SUNY Optometry and the optometric associations.

Dr. Cottrell ended her report by discussing the importance of having representation by NYSOA at the board meetings. The Board discussed having the executive director or a representative from NYSOA at the meetings.

2022 Legislative Update – Dr. Cottrell stated we have been working on the Orals Bill course. Dr. Soden stated there is a Bill to allow non-New York students to practice and observe in New

York State in an externship. Dr. Soden said there is a Senate version of the bill and that they are looking for a sponsor in the Assembly. Dr. Cottrell stated that the Diversity Course Bill is in both the Senate and Assembly, but it hasn't been signed yet.

Old Business

Telehealth Guidelines Update – Dr. Cottrell stated it has to be Tele practice guidelines and not Tele-health. The Board discussed if the patient can be in another state, or if they can only do New York State patients. The Board went through the Tele-Practice guidelines and made changes to them. Dr. Cottrell stated she will make the changes and then email them to Legal for review.

Optometrists and DOH Lab List – Dr. Rutner stated that she and Dr. Cottrell had a meeting with DOH to go over the list and make corrections. Dr. Rutner stated that the lab tests must be within the scope of optometry practice as defined by the New York State Education Department. A motion was made and there was unanimous agreement to the list of labs. Dr. Cottrell stated that it will be posted on the OP Optometry webpage.

Update on NYS 40-hour Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agent Certification Course- Dr. Soden informed the Board that per the NYS Department of Education that SUNY Optometry will render the course for the Orals Certification. Dr. Soden stated he hopes SUNY can have it ready by late winter 2023. Dr. Soden stated that the plan is for the course to be done at home. It can be synchronous, and he hopes there will be an option to take it live as well. Dr. Soden stated that oral prescriptions cannot be written until October 23, 2023.

New Business

Drug Flow Charts – Rocklatan, Avenova, Oxervate, Autologous serum treatment for dry eye syndrome/ocular surface disease, Dextensa and Xiidra- Dr. Cottrell stated that she had emailed a list of what we have approved or not approved for drug flow charts. The board made changes to the Drug flow chart template. Dr. Pirozzollo volunteered to do a drug flow chart for Rocklatan. Dr. Risko stated she will do Avenova. Dr. Salgado stated she will do Oxervate. Dr. Rutner stated she will do Autologous serum treatment for dry eye. Dr. Calhoun stated he will do Dextensa and Dr. Akano stated he will do Xiidra.

ARBO- Dr. Cottrell stated that the Office of Professions is allowing for travel to some National meetings. Dr. Cottrell informed members they paid for the remote registration for Dr. Salgado for the ARBO meeting. Dr. Salgado informed the members about the ARBO meeting. Dr. Salgado stated that 30 percent of states used universal telehealth guidelines and over 60 percent wrote their own optometric telehealth guidelines, with 10 percent still working on them. Dr. Salgado

stated that there was a discussion about Covid-19, requiring education online regarding the pandemic and about optometrists giving Covid vaccinations. Dr. Salgado informed members that most states are doing all online continuing education till 2024. Dr. Cottrell stated that in New York State optometrists can only do all online CE till January 1, 2023. Dr. Cottrell stated that Dr. Jim Campbell is the new ARBO liaison for New York State.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday February 6th, 2023 in New York City at 9:30 a.m.

Executive Session: There were no disciplinary cases to be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was approved for Adjournment at 12: 36 PM (Calhoun/Risko).